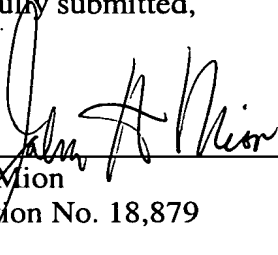


REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to eliminate all multiple dependent claims (both proper and improper), thereby both eliminating the need for a multiple dependent claim fee and ensuring examination of all claims on the merits in the first Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



John H. Mion
Registration No. 18,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
(202) 663-7901

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 27, 2004